

Miss Josephine SO  
Clerk to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

9 October 2020

Dear Miss SO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
List of Follow-up Actions**

Regarding the item of “Proposed creation of two directorate posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) for planning and implementation of municipal facility projects” in the list of follow-up actions, our reply is as follows.

**Market Modernisation Programme (“MMP”)**

The pioneering project of the MMP is the overhaul of Aberdeen Market. We consulted the relevant committee of the Southern District Council on the detailed layout design on 22 September 2020. We plan to consult the Panel on the project in the fourth quarter this year and seek funding approval from the Legislative Council in the first half of 2021. Subject to the actual progress, we aim to commence the overhaul works in the third quarter of 2021. We also plan to overhaul Yeung Uk Road Market, Ngau Tau Kok Market and Kowloon City Market, as well as to carry out minor refurbishment or improvement works in selected markets. The consultation and preparatory work in relation to these projects is underway.

**Development of new public markets**

The Government is taking forward seven new market projects which are at different stages of planning. They include the development of new public markets in Tin

Shui Wai, Tung Chung Town Centre, Tseung Kwan O, Kwu Tung North New Development Area (NDA), Tung Chung New Town Extension and Hung Shui Kiu NDA as well as the establishment of a temporary market in Tin Shui Wai. Among these projects, Tin Shui Wai Temporary Market is expected to be completed and to commence operation by the end of this year for providing the local residents with an additional choice for purchasing fresh provisions. Besides, we are working closely with relevant departments to implement other market development projects. The details of these projects were set out in the Panel paper of 12 May 2020 on “Development of New Public Markets and Implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme”.

### **Comprehensive review of the management and facilities of public markets**

We are conducting a comprehensive review of the existing public markets and will formulate specific improvement measures for their facilities and management in a systematic manner. These include rental policy, tenancy renewal, trade mix and daily management, etc. as well as looking into ways to enhance the functions of the Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCCs). We will consider adopting a new operation mode for new public markets, which includes ways to enhance the role of service contractors in market management, such as formulating promotion and development strategies for markets, advising on the trade mix in markets and enforcing tenancy agreements, etc. With the aim to serve the overall interest of the community, we will listen to stakeholders’ views during the process of formulating specific recommendations.

Moreover, after reviewing the usage and development potential of existing public markets, we closed Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market in June 2019 and plan to close Tui Min Hoi Market in 2020-21. After consulting the relevant committee of Wong Tai Sin District Council on 15 September 2020, we will kick-start the preparatory work and consultation with tenants for the closure of Choi Hung Road Market.

As regards the six public markets for which the Government consultant has conducted study and put forward improvement recommendations, we have completed the improvement works in Wing Fong Street Market, Yau Ma Tei Market and Sheung Fung Street Market after taking into account the views of the relevant MMCCs and findings of the feasibility studies. The improvement works in Lockhart Road Market is scheduled for completion in 2020 and the works in the remaining two markets (i.e. Tsuen Wan Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market) will be considered under the context of the MMP.

### **Outsourced services**

The contract formulation and procurement of related services in respect of the outsourced service contracts under the monitoring of FEHD are conducted in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government Logistics Department and the requirements of the World Trade Organisation. According to the terms and conditions of FEHD service contracts, there is a one-hour meal break for non-skilled workers engaged by the contractors on any work shift of eight hours or longer. For non-skilled workers working in work shifts of less than eight hours, they are allowed to take refreshments at appropriate time and place as long as the services are properly provided without affecting the normal operation. The conditions of service for employees of an outsourced service contractor during the contract period are determined by mutual agreement between the contractor and its employees.

### **Proposal on creation of new posts**

After listening to the views of Members at the meeting on 14 May 2019 on the proposed creation of one Senior Principal Executive Officer post (i.e. Assistant Director (Planning)) and one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post (i.e. Assistant Director (Market Development)), we are examining afresh the staffing arrangement required for taking forward the development of various municipal infrastructures (including public markets) and plan to consult the Panel on the latest proposal in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Yours sincerely,



( Almaz LEUNG )

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c.: Secretary for Food and Health (Attn.: Mr Gilford LAW)